C. 6 J.

June 21, 1960

Dr. Carl Djerassi
Syntex, S.A.
Apartado 2679
Mexico, D.F.

Dear Dr. Djerassi:

Many thanks for your continuing interest in our steroid work. I am now in a position to make a couple of definite statements about our results.

1) A single dose of 20 mg. of hydrocortisone alcohol U.S.P. microfine is approximately an L.D. 50/10 days in our mice. With such a huge dose, the antibody production against our standard bacterial antigen is only moderately diminished -- a reduction of 2 to 4 $\log_2$. This is considerably less reduction than is achieved by an L.D. 10 , for example of whole body irradiation.

2) a single dose of 25 mg. of prednisone or daily doses of up to 5 mg. of prednisone was virtually ineffective. (1 - 2 $\log_2$ depression).

While these results are a little disappointing from our point of view, I think the differences between soluble and insoluble steroid preparations may turn out to be of some importance in human therapy. We still cannot exclude the transport of drug particles to specific sites by scavenger cells as a factor in achieving immune depression.

I do feel I want to pursue this question a little further with different antigens. I believe Dr. Lederberg has asked you for some <u>soluble</u> hydrocortisone alcohol. Would it also be possible to send us a fairly large supply (e.g. 50 gms.) of the hydrocortisone alcohol U.S.P. microfine as in order no. 31079 (Roussel) and a smaller amount (e.g. 10 gms) of the identical compound but as a large crystal. I also would appreciate a little information as to how to prepare a uniform, non-irritant suspension of these insoluble products. We have had little success using various oleates and Arlacel A as emulsifying agents.

I do hope we may meet during your next Stanford visit. Again, my thanks for your cooperation.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

Gus Nossal
Assistant Professor of Genetics